

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 /039 W
-----068649 041950Z /43
R 041920Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8500
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 00073

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS-3
TAGS: NATO, IT
SUBJECT: SELECTION OF A NEW NATO DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL

REFS: (A) USNATO 13049 (NOTAL), (B) ROME 21147 (NOTAL),
(C) ROME 21114 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WE EXPECT ITALY WILL DESIRE TO RETAIN THE NATO
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL POSITION WHEN D/SYG PANSA
MOVES TO WASHINGTON AS ITALIAN AMBASSADOR. IT IS TOO
EARLY TO SAY WHO WILL SURFACE AS CANDIDATES TO REPLACE
PANSA IN A ROLE WHICH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CRUCIAL
TO THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF NATO'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY
SIDES IN RECENT YEARS. BY A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION,
HOWEVER, ANOTHER ITALIAN MIGHT HAVE A FAIR CHANCE, EVEN
THOUGH MANY WOULD FAVOR NATIONAL ROTATION AT THE D/SYG
LEVEL. CANADA WILL SEEK THE POST. END SUMMARY.

1. CHOOSING A SUCCESSOR FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
PANSA UPON HIS DEPARTURE TO BECOME ITALIAN AMBASSADOR
TO WASHINGTON WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE PREOCCUPATION AT NATO
HEADQUARTERS AS PERMREPS RETURN FROM THE CHRISTMAS HOL-
IDAYS. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE USEFUL SPECULATION
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HERE ABOUT A REPLACEMENT.

2. NEITHER A SECRETARY GENERAL NOR A DEPUTY HAS BEEN
SELECTED SINCE 1971. PREDICTING WHICH COUNTRY WILL
PRODUCE THE WINNING CANDIDATE, MUCH LESS HIS NAME, WOULD
BE HAZARDOUS. PANSA, HIMSELF, WAS BROUGHT FROM RELATIVE
OBSCURITY AS ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO CANADA IN JUNE 1971 TO

REPLACE OSMAN OLCAY, WHO RETURNED TO THE TURKISH POLITICAL ARENA. LUNS' APPOINTMENT TO REPLACE MANLIO BROSIO OF ITALY HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THREE WEEKS EARLIER BUT DID NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 1971. WE ASSUME PANSAS ARRIVAL WAS RELATED TO BROSIO'S DEPARTURE BUT DEFER TO THE RECOLLECTIONS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AS TO EXACTLY WHAT TRADEOFFS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AT THE TIME.

3. THERE ARE ALREADY INDICATIONS THAT ITALY WILL SEEK TO HAVE PANSAS REPLACED BY ANOTHER ITALIAN. ITALY HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE ABOUT NATO APPOINTMENTS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT, BARRING A MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGE IN ROME, ITALY WILL WISH STRONGLY TO KEEP THE DEPUTY POSITION. IT IS NOT AN ITALIAN "SLOT" HOWEVER. PANSAS WAS PRECEDED BY A TURK AND A CANADIAN, AS WELL AS TWO ITALIANS AND TWO DUTCHMEN.

4. BY THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION ITALY STANDS A GOOD CHANCE OF RETAINING THE POST. THE US, WHICH NOMINATES SACEUR, WOULD NOT NORMALLY PROPOSE A CANDIDATE. LUNS (NETHERLANDS) IS FROM THE NORTH, THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE ARGUMENT FOR A SOUTHERN EUROPEAN. GREECE AND FRANCE DO NOT PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE. TURKEY AND PORTUGAL ARE UNLIKELY TO PROPOSE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES AT A TIME WHEN TURKEY

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IS EMBROILED WITH GREECE AND PORTUGAL ENJOYS LESS THAN FULL ACCESS TO NATO CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. THE UK, FRG, TURKEY AND THE US HAVE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL, WHILE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS FROM NORWAY, THUS, AN ITALIAN MIGHT WELL APPEAR AMONG THE FRONTRUNNERS, AS MIGHT A CANADIAN. CANADIAN PERMREP HAS TOLD AMB BENNETT THAT CANADA INTENDS TO NOMINATE A "STRONG" CANDIDATE.

5. LUNS' OWN PLANS ENTER INTO THE EQUATION. HE HAS SHOWN NO INCLINATION TO LEAVE NATO OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE AND, IN FACT, TALKS JOVIALY OF STAYING ON INDEFINITELY. SHOULD HE DEPART IN THE NEAR FUTURE, HOWEVER, THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE NEW DEPUTY WOULD IMPACT ON THE SELECTION OF HIS REPLACEMENT.

6. WHOEVER IS SELECTED WILL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO WORK AT LEAST INITIALLY UNDER LUNS' DIRECTION AND DOMINATION. BUT IF HE IS WILLING TO INVOLVE HIMSELF IN THE KINDS OF TECHNICAL PROBLEMS RANGING FROM THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE TO THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM WHICH HAVE ENGAGED PANSAS'S ATTENTION, HE CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION.

IT IS A POST WHICH HAS GROWN IN IMPORTANCE TO THE US
AS LUNS HAS RETREATED FROM INVOLVEMENT IN SPECIFIC
PROBLEMS AND PANSAS HAS DONE WHAT HE COULD TO FILL THE
GAP. SHOULD PANSAS LEAVE PROMPTLY, HIS DEPARTURE WILL
HAVE IMPACT ON THE WORK OF THE LONG TERM DEFENSE
PROGRAM, THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON INTEROPERABILITY,
AND SEVERAL OTHER DEFENSE-RELATED PROGRAMS AS WELL AS
ON THE POLITICAL CONSULTATION PROCESS OF THE ALLIANCE.
FOR HIS REPLACEMENT, AN INDIVIDUAL WITH PREVIOUS EXPOSURE

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 /039 W
-----069030 042054Z /62

R 041920Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8501
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 00073
LIMDIS
TO DEFENSE ISSUES WOULD GET OFF TO AN EASIER START
DURING THE CRUCIAL MONTHS AHEAD THAN WOULD ONE WHO WOULD
HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO000073
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780007-0412
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780199/aaaadfre.tel
Line Count: 151
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2adc8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 78 USNATO 13049, 78 ROME 21147, 78 ROME 21114
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3827631
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SELECTION OF A NEW NATO DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
TAGS: PORG, IT, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2adc8be6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014